

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Webster on June 14, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. (Currently Amended) A printing module provided with a frame, an impression roller, a plate cylinder assembly comprising a plate cylinder which is provided with a print image and which, in use, with interposition of a substrate to be printed, abuts against the impression roller, and an anilox roller arranged adjacent to the plate cylinder, such that a desired amount of ink is transferred by the anilox roller to the plate cylinder, the plate cylinder assembly being provided with a stationary shaft on which the plate cylinder is rotatably bearing-mounted, while on opposite sides of the plate cylinder a support is fixedly connected with the stationary shaft, the printing module comprising two receiving units disposed on opposite sides of the plate cylinder, which are connected with the frame, in which receiving units rest the supports when the plate cylinder assembly in the operative position is mounted in the printing module, while fixation means are provided for fixating the plate cylinder assembly in the receiving units, wherein the fixation means are situated substantially under the plate cylinder assembly,

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wherein the fixation means comprise two rods which, at an upwardly directed end, are provided with a hook, the two hooks, on opposite sides of the plate cylinder, engaging the stationary shaft of the plate cylinder assembly when the plate cylinder assembly is in the operative position, and wherein the engaged hooks are oriented to exert ~~means for exerting a pull~~ downward force on the ~~two rods-stationary shaft~~ for pressing the plate cylinder assembly into the receiving units.

3. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] printing module according to claim 2, wherein the two rods are each connected, at the ends remote from the hooks, with a piston-cylinder assembly for adjusting the position of the rods in a longitudinal direction thereof and for exerting said pull force.

4. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] printing module according to any one of claims 2-3, wherein the fixation means are further provided with bearing surfaces on which rests the plate cylinder assembly when the fixation means are in a release position, while the plate cylinder assembly in this release position is lifted out of the receiving units and is moved upwards, such that the plate cylinder assembly can be simply taken out of the printing module.

5. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] printing module according to claim 2, wherein each rod is provided with a bearing surface, which bearing surface upon upward movement of the rods in the direction of the longitudinal axes of the rods

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automatically enters into engagement with the stationary shaft and thereby lifts the plate cylinder assembly from the receiving units.

6. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] printing module according to claim 2, wherein the supports that are fixedly connected with the stationary shaft on opposite sides of the plate cylinder are supporting rings each having a diameter that matches the diameter of the plate cylinder, the receiving units each being provided with a supporting surface which is provided with a particular curve, the curve being such that the distance between plate cylinder and the anilox roller on the one hand and the distance between the plate cylinder and the impression roller on the other in each case remain, in pairs, mutually equal at different diameters of plate cylinders, which are provided with rings of diameters matching the plate cylinders.

7. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] printing module according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein substantially above the receiving units, receiving ~~means~~ devices are provided for mounting additional processing means.

8. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] printing module according to claim 7, wherein the receiving ~~means~~ devices comprise two guides.

9. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] printing module according to claim 7 wherein the additional processing means comprise, ~~for instance,~~ substrate web

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inverting units, winders, unwinders, digital printheads, punching units, laminating or delaminating units ~~or the like~~.

10. (Currently amended) A printing machine provided with at least one printing module provided with a frame, an impression roller, a plate cylinder assembly comprising a plate cylinder which is provided with a print image and which, in use, with interposition of a substrate to be printed, abuts against the impression roller, and an anilox roller, the anilox roller being arranged adjacent to the plate cylinder, such that a desired amount of ink is transferred by the anilox roller to the plate cylinder, the plate cylinder assembly being provided with a stationary shaft on which the plate cylinder is rotatably bearing-mounted, while on opposite sides of the plate cylinder a support is fixedly connected with the stationary shaft, the printing module comprising two receiving units disposed on opposite sides of the plate cylinder, which are connected with the frame, in which receiving units rest the supports when the plate cylinder assembly in the operative position is mounted in the printing module, while fixation means are provided for fixating the plate cylinder assembly in the receiving units, wherein the fixation means are situated substantially under the plate cylinder assembly, wherein the fixation means comprise two rods which, at an upwardly directed end, are provided with a hook, the two hooks, on opposite sides of the plate cylinder, engaging the stationary shaft of the plate cylinder assembly when the plate cylinder assembly is in the operative position, and,

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wherein the engaged hooks are oriented to exert ~~means for exerting a downward force~~ on the ~~two rods a pull force~~ stationary shaft for pressing the plate cylinder assembly into the receiving units when the plate cylinder is in the operative position.

11. (Currently Amended) The printing module of claim 2, ~~A printing module provided with a frame, an impression roller, a plate cylinder assembly comprising a plate cylinder which is provided with a print image and which, in use, with interposition of a substrate to be printed, abuts against the impression roller, and an anilox roller, the anilox roller being arranged adjacent to the plate cylinder, such that a desired amount of ink is transferred from the anilox roller to the plate cylinder, the plate cylinder assembly being provided with a stationary shaft on which the plate cylinder is rotatably bearing mounted, while on opposite sides of the plate cylinder a support is fixedly connected with the stationary shaft, the printing module comprising two receiving units disposed on opposite sides of the plate cylinder, which are connected with the frame, and are configured to provide a rest for the supports when the plate cylinder assembly in the operative position is mounted in the printing module; and fixation means comprising two rods located on opposite sides of the plate cylinder, each of which is provided at an upwardly directed open end with a hook for engaging the stationary shaft of the plate cylinder assembly when the plate cylinder assembly is in the operative position, and means for exerting a pull force on the rods for pressing the plate cylinder into the receiving units, and wherein the fixation means are situated~~

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substantially under the plate cylinder assembly and not above the top of the plate cylinder to permit free access to the plate cylinder assembly from above the plate cylinder assembly.

12. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] printing module according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the receiving units are each provided with a supporting surface which is provided with a particular curve, the curve being such that the distance between plate cylinder and the anilox roller on the one hand and the distance between the plate cylinder and the impression roller on the other in each case remain, in pairs, mutually equal for different diameter plate cylinders provided with rings of diameters matching the plate cylinders.

13. (New) The printing module according to claim 2, wherein the plate cylinder assembly is fixed in an operative position without further securing structure.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 2-13 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The limitation the pair of engaged hooks oriented to pull the stationary shaft in a downward direction to press the plate cylinder assembly into the receiving units distinguishes claims 2 and 10 over the prior art combination of Schwarzbeck in view of Washchynsky et al. Additionally, in further review of the Schwarzbeck reference, the cylinder moved by the arms is a numbering cylinder and

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distinguished therein from the printing cylinder. Accordingly, none of the prior art of record or any obvious combination thereof teaches a printing machine with a printing module wherein two rods with hooks on the upper ends are arranged to downwardly pull on the stationary shaft of a printing cylinder assembly to mount the printing cylinder into receiving units in an operative position.

Claims 3-9 and 11-13 are allowable as being dependent upon claim 2 and including all of the limitations therein.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID BANH whose telephone number is (571)270-3851. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30AM - 8PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571)272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DHB

/Ren L Yan/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2854